
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1118

AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTION MODERATORS.

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits the secretary of the state from certifying as an election moderator or alternate moderator an individual who has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any (1) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny, embezzlement, or bribery or (2) state election law criminal offense (felony or misdemeanor).

Existing law prohibits an individual who has been convicted and imprisoned for a felony from being certified as a moderator, but only until his or her electoral privileges are restored. There is no similar prohibition following misdemeanor convictions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Moderator Eligibility

By law, moderators are the chief public officials at polling places and responsible for presiding over them in accordance with election law. To be eligible for moderator certification, individuals must (1) be state electors and (2) successfully complete an instructional session and secretary of the state-administered examination.

An individual forfeits his or her right to be an elector upon conviction and imprisonment for a felony. The right may be restored after the individual has paid all fines and completed any required prison and parole time (CGS §§ 9-46 and -46a).

The secretary of the state may disqualify a moderator if, after consulting with the registrars of voters, she determines the moderator

has committed material (1) misconduct, (2) neglect of duty, or (3) incompetence in the discharge of duties (CGS § 9-228a).

Related Bill

sHB 6633, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, generally prohibits individuals from becoming campaign treasurers or deputy campaign treasurers for similar offenses.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/27/2013)